

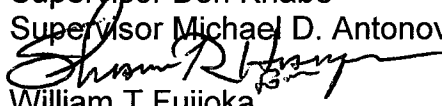


County of Los Angeles
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

August 14, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

REPORT ON PROPOSED AUTOMATED INTERAGENCY DATA SYSTEM

On May 16, 2006, on motion of Supervisor Burke, your Board instructed the Chief Information Officer, in conjunction with the Interim Director of Health Services, Director of Children and Family Services, Director of Mental Health, County Counsel and this Office, to report back in 30 days on the feasibility of a cost-effective automated data system and include in the analysis the status of the medical passport.

Related Board actions include: 1) a motion on February 20, 2001 by Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich regarding the design, development and implementation of a Child Health and Education Passport system (Passport); and 2) a motion on May 30, 2006, by Supervisor Antonovich instructing the Chief Information Officer, in collaboration with the LAC+USC Violence Intervention Program (VIP) and the Children's Action Network, to report on potential grants for the Children's Health Education Electronic Record System, and other funding resources to enhance the Medical Hubs for children.

This represents our fourth status report and provides background information on issues related to implementing an automated data system, status on the County's efforts, next steps and a project timeline.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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BACKGROUND

In response to the February 20, 2001 instruction from your Board, this Office provided a report dated July 22, 2002 which indicated that the County was unsuccessful in obtaining approval from the federal Department of Health and Human Services for our proposed Child Health and Education Passport Pilot Project. However, County efforts to develop a system similar to Passport have continued, consistent with the related Board actions mentioned previously.

Further, on June 13, 2006, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, your Board requested the Los Angeles Education Coordinating Council (ECC) to report on the development of a public/private partnership in creating an electronic based information system for individual education records of youth under the supervision of the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation. As noted in our earlier status reports, this motion has been incorporated into our efforts to develop an automated health/mental health/education information system.

This Office, in conjunction with the Chief Information Office (CIO), County Counsel, DCFS, Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Mental Health, and the ECC have collaborated as a Work Group, in the development of an automated system to enhance the Medical Hubs for children.

Additionally, as noted below, proposed funding sources have now been identified for enhanced automation of the Medical Hubs as instructed by your Board on May 16, 2006.

Therefore, given these actions, we will work with the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, to reflect the assignments from your Board, on February 20, 2001, regarding a pilot Passport project, and on May 16, 2006, regarding funding resources to enhance the Medical Hubs for children as completed.

STATUS

While efforts will continue to develop a single unified system to share education, health and mental records, the Work Group determined that, in the interim, the County should begin by developing and implementing two systems: one designed to share health and mental records and the other designed to share education records. This decision was reached, in part, because of remaining issues regarding confidentiality, particularly with respect to education records. The Work Group will focus and move forward with a streamlined approach for the health and mental health records system. The ECC supports the concept of two systems and will continue to serve as oversight body for the development of an electronic information system for individual education records of DCFS and Probation youth.

The Work Group efforts were aided by recent information received from the State regarding the sharing of child welfare services data. DCFS submitted a letter on February 7, 2008 to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) requesting confirmation on State policy for sharing child welfare services data and case information. DCFS received a letter dated March 10, 2008 indicating that CDSS does not anticipate any adverse consequences given the information provided by DCFS, and assuming the County will operate in compliance with Welfare and Institutions Code limitations on sharing confidential information using electronic means. We believe this addresses certain legal issues which were previously raised as to record confidentiality. Please note that under confidential memos, dated August 31, 2006 and October 5, 2006, County Counsel informed your Board of legal issues involving the sharing of data and records information.

The Work Group conducted an assessment of the type of automated system needed and options for implementing such a system, which should allow health and mental health information to be submitted electronically to DCFS to keep track of all the foster care youth seen at the Medical Hubs and facilitate quality medical care. The primary attributes of the system should also include the following:

- Identify patients by Medical Hub, including links to the child's relevant medical/mental health data when seen by more than one Medical Hub.
- Be a web-based system that will keep track of patient appointments, doctor's appointment schedules, and provide business roles and workflow.
- Capture medical, mental health, forensic and medical visit information; such as the child's health problem description, diagnosis and observed conditions, mental health referrals, and date of service.

Saga Technologies (Saga) was recognized by the Work Group for developing such systems; specifically, it designed MyCSW for exclusive use at DCFS and the mHUB system at the VIP clinic. Based on an evaluation of Saga's experience in developing software, custom applications and maintenance, the Work Group supports Saga for the development of an enterprise solution, which would entail enhancement of VIP's existing mHUB system and expansion to the other Medical Hub clinics. Please note that DHS will submit a memo to your Board notifying you of their intent to enter into sole source negotiations with Saga.

The VIP utilized non-County funds and contracted with Saga to develop the mHUB system at LAC+USC, which is currently considered a standalone and used solely at this site. In order to proceed with this system as the enterprise solution, modifications will be developed and changes built into the mHUB system. By automating and expanding the system to each Medical Hub clinic, it will improve the County's ability to maintain consistent medical and mental health records for our foster care youth.

Preliminary estimates for the mHUB system are projected at approximately \$1.5 million for one-time start up and implementation costs, and \$0.6 million in on-going annual maintenance and support costs. Your Board previously approved funding of \$2.0 million related to the development of the Passport Pilot Project. These one-time funds would be recommended for use to offset the one-time costs associated with the mHUB system. These funds are identified in the CIO's Information Technology Infrastructure Fund and will be utilized to cover projected start up costs; software licenses, custom application development, hardware and software specifications, and training of Medical Hub staff. Approximately \$0.5 million of the on-going costs would be eligible for reimbursement from Cost-Based Reimbursement Clinic Medi-Cal revenues, and DCFS has agreed to fund the remaining on-going costs, estimated at approximately \$0.1 million. Approval of the use of these funds, as well as the proposed agreement with the vendor, would be contingent on Board approval.

TIMELINE

We expect DHS to bring a sole source agreement to your Board for approval by January 2009. In addition, the projected target dates for implementation of the mHUB system as the countywide automated health and mental health system are as follows:

Target Date	Objective
Aug 2008	Notice to the Board of intent to sole source
Aug 2008 – Sep 2008	Recruit and hire mHUB Project Manager
Sep 2008 – Dec 2008	Finalize project requirements and negotiate agreement
Jan 2009	Request Board approval of contract
Feb 2009 – Mar 2009	If approved by the Board, develop Enterprise mHUB system design specifications
Apr 2009 – May 2009	Build Enterprise mHUB system
Jun 2009 – Jul 2009	Test Enterprise mHUB system
Aug 2009 – Dec 2009	Deploy system, train end-users, and go-live at the Medical Hubs

Although numerous issues have delayed progress, the Work Group has made this project a priority and will coordinate efforts for implementation of new information technology and data sharing between County departments. Our next status report to your Board is targeted for October 1, 2008.

Each Supervisor
August 14, 2008
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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Dara Lark at (213) 974-2396, or at dlark@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:SRH:SAS
MLM:DL:yb

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Chief Information Officer
 Department of Children and Family Services
 Department of Health Services
 Department of Mental Health
 Education Coordinating Council

mHUB Board Report_mbs